

**FACULTY OF ARTS**

**ARTS & SCIENCE HONOURS ACADEMY**

**ASHA 501: The Nature of Research**

Instructor: Dr. Barbara Schneider

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Office hours: Tuesday 2-3 or by appointment

**Course Description:**

This course will consider academic research within the social, historical and political context of its production and use. Questions to be considered include disciplinary contexts of research production and the political and cultural uses of research. We will also consider various approaches to the production and analysis of data, with attention to their ontological and epistemological underpinnings and to the interrelation of theory and method. In particular we will consider the theoretical, methodological, ethical and political aspects of social justice research.

**Course Objectives**

Students should be able to critique research as a historically, socially, and culturally situated activity.

Student should be able to identify and use academic genre conventions for writing about research in science, social science, and humanities.

Students should be able articulate the relationship of theory to method.

Students should be able to apply their knowledge of a specific research method to design and carry out their own small social justice research project.

**Textbooks and Readings:**

Loseke, D. (2013). *Methodological Thinking: Basic Principles of Social Research Design*. London: Sage.

Levin, M. & Greenwood, D. (2011). Revitalizing universities by reinventing the social sciences: Bildung and action research. In N. Denzin & Y. Lincoln (Eds.), *The Sage handbook of qualitative research*. London: Sage. Pp. 27-42.

Moynihan, R. & Cassels, A. (2005). *Selling sickness*. Vancouver, BC: Greystone Books. Intro & Ch. 1. Pp. vii-xx, 1-21.

Crotty, M. (1998). *The foundations of social research*. London: Sage. Introduction. Ch. 1, pp 1-17.

Altheide, D. (2008). The evidentiary narrative: Notes toward a symbolic interactionist perspective about evidence. In N. Denzin & M. D. Giardana (Eds.), *Qualitative inquiry and the politics of evidence*. Left Coast Books. Ch. 5, 137-162. (library access)

Bruffee, K. (1986). Social construction, language, and the authority of knowledge: A bibliographical essay. *College English*, 48(8), 773-790.

Canella, G. S. & Lincoln, Y. S. (2009). Deploying qualitative methods for critical social purposes. In N. Denzin & M. D. Giardana (Eds.), *Qualitative inquiry and social justice*. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Books. Pp. 53-72.

Vande Berg, L. & Trujillo, N. (2008). Cancer and death: A love story in many voices. In N. Denzin & M. D. Giardana (Eds.), *Qualitative inquiry and the politics of evidence*. Left Coast Books. Ch. 12, 288-308. (library access)

Additional readings will be suggested by guest speakers and student presenters.

### **Assignments and Evaluation:**

Responses to/critiques of guest speakers	2 @ 15%=30%	One week after speaker's visit to class.
Seminar presentation on a specific method	15%	Various
Group or individual research project	45%	
Proposal	10%	Oct. 16
Presentation	5%	Dec. 4
Final report	30%	Dec. 4
Research reflection (individual)	10%	Dec. 4

Please hand in written assignments in hard copy either in class or to SS220.

Please keep a copy of your assignment in case of loss by any cause.

### **Assignments**

1. Responses to guest speakers. This assignment asks students to write a response to the presentations of guest speakers that discusses and critiques the research

from the points of view being discussed in the course. More details will be provided.

2. Each student will select a research method to present to the class. This can be any method from across the spectrum of the sciences, social sciences, and humanities. You will prepare a 15-20 minute presentation that positions the method in the context of the ongoing class discussion, outlines the main principles of the method, and discusses strengths and weaknesses of the method for answering particular kinds of research questions. You will select an appropriate reading about the method and a reading that reports on a study that uses the method. Each student will meet with me to work out details.
3. Working in small groups (2-3) or alone, students will propose and carry out a small research project on a topic of their choosing related to social justice.
4. Participation is not assigned a mark in this course but students are expected to read assigned readings and be prepared to either make a short presentation on the reading or take part in discussion of the reading. Students are also expected to take part in weekly classroom activities.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination:** No

### **Policy for Late Assignments**

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late unless prior arrangement has been made with the instructor for an extension.

### **Internet and electronic communication device information**

Electronic devices (laptops, iPads, etc.) may be used in the classroom for note taking and other purposes relevant to classroom discussion/research. The instructor reserves the right to ask that devices be switched off if considered to be disturbing the learning of others in the class.

### **Ethics**

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. More information will be presented in class and on the research project assignment. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see

The Department of Communication and Culture Research Ethics site:

<http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/ethics>

or the University of Calgary Research Ethics site:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/cfreb>

## **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam from the interdisciplinary programs office after classes have ended.

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

## **Plagiarism**

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Taylor Digital Family Library, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

## **Academic Misconduct**

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link;

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

## **Academic Accommodation Policy**

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

## **Students' Union**

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Arts see

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html>

## **Student Ombudsman**

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

## **Student Representation**

There are now four Arts reps because of the amalgamation, with the email addresses being arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, and arts4@su.ucalgary.ca. Please contact if you have questions related to Students Union matters, events, or concerns.

## **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

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For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 4th Floor of MacEwan Student Centre.

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For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

## **Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points**

Please note the evacuation points for this particular classroom. All classrooms on campus exit to specific places in case of emergency. The emergency assembly points differ depending upon where your classroom is located. For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

## **"SAFEWALK" Program**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night --call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

## Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Week	Readings	Topics/Activities
1. Sept. 11		Introduction and course overview. The research process.
2. Sept. 18	Levin & Greenwood, Moynihan & Cassels Loseke p. 93-97	The politics of research. Ethics in research
3. Sept. 25	Loseke, Ch. 1, 2,3 Crotty	Paradigms, methods, methodologies. Ontological and Epistemological Assumptions. Guest speaker: David Irvine-Halliday
4. Oct.2	Altheide; Brufee	The nature of evidence. Research questions.
5. Oct. 9	Canella & Lincoln. Method #1	Academic genres
6. Oct. 16	Method #2 & 3	Guest speaker: Pamela McCallum
7. Oct. 23	Method #4 & 5	<b>Proposal due</b>
8. Oct. 30	Method # 6 & 7	Guest speaker: Liza McCoy
9. Nov. 6	Method # 8 & 9	
10. Nov. 13	Reading week	<b>NO class</b>
11. Nov. 20	Readings TBA	Data analysis. Project work time
12. Nov. 27		Project work time
13. Dec. 4		Presentations